

Rising to the Challenge

ADECA



2008-2009 Annual Report

Rising to the Challenge

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Bob Riley
GOVERNOR



State of Alabama



Bob Riley
GOVERNOR

A Message from Governor Bob Riley

Our nation's economic downturn has created hardships and challenges for many Alabama residents, and citizens in every part of our state have felt its sting.

The staff at ADECA recognize the economic challenges facing our economy. They are committed to helping Alabamians through this downturn and to improving the overall quality of life for all Alabamians.

ADECA has played, and will continue to play, a vital role in building our great state. Whenever and wherever the need has arisen, employees at ADECA have stepped up to get the job done.

Grants administered by ADECA have expanded employment opportunities, provided new skills to unemployed Alabamians and helped make long-lasting improvements in all 67 counties. The impact of these programs and employees may not always be seen, but I assure you that throughout Alabama it can always be felt.

The support and assistance of ADECA also has been vital to the success of the Alabama Black Belt Action Commission. The commission has made tremendous strides by raising awareness of the challenges facing some of our most disadvantaged counties and focusing resources to make a positive difference for residents. Doni Ingram, in addition to the duties she assumed when I appointed her as Director of ADECA, has continued to serve as Executive Director of the Black Belt Action Commission. She knows that for Alabama to achieve genuine prosperity, every section of the state must participate.

Another program that receives vital support from ADECA is the Alabama Rural Action Commission. Modeled after the Black Belt Commission, ARAC has helped unite regions across the state to tackle common issues and take advantage of opportunities to expand development and improve the quality of life for residents of each area.

Whatever the challenge, Alabamians always rise to the occasion. I look forward to continuing to work with ADECA to provide Alabama residents the tools needed to build a better Alabama. As we continue to forge ahead, ADECA is there to give a strong helping hand.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Bob Riley in black ink.

Bob Riley
Governor

BOB RILEY
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALABAMA



Doni M. Ingram
DIRECTOR

For most of us, 2009 was not the best of years. Around the world and across the nation, many lost their jobs and some even lost their homes.

Alabama did not escape the economic turmoil. Closings and layoffs left a number of Alabamians unemployed. Lost income and declining investments resulted in a lower standard of living for many, and foreclosure for some.

In the midst of such difficulty, it is important to remember that adversity can have positive aspects. It makes us stronger. It makes us appreciate the good times and it makes us strive that much harder to overcome obstacles and become better prepared for the future.

Alabamians by nature are hardy people. From the earliest days to the present, inhabitants of this wonderful state have overcome harsh conditions and daunting challenges. Alabamians not only endured, they grew stronger and prospered. Like all the troubled times in our history, the current difficult times will pass and Alabama's people and economy will emerge more robust than ever.

I am proud of our people, and in these trying times, I am especially proud of the work being done at ADECA. In so many ways the ADECA staff has risen to the occasion, helping Alabamians regain their footing.

ADECA employees have been at the forefront of economic recovery efforts and are working with other Alabama departments and agencies to help residents weather the tough times. For those who have lost jobs, ADECA programs and funding help provide proper training to obtain new, and often better, jobs.

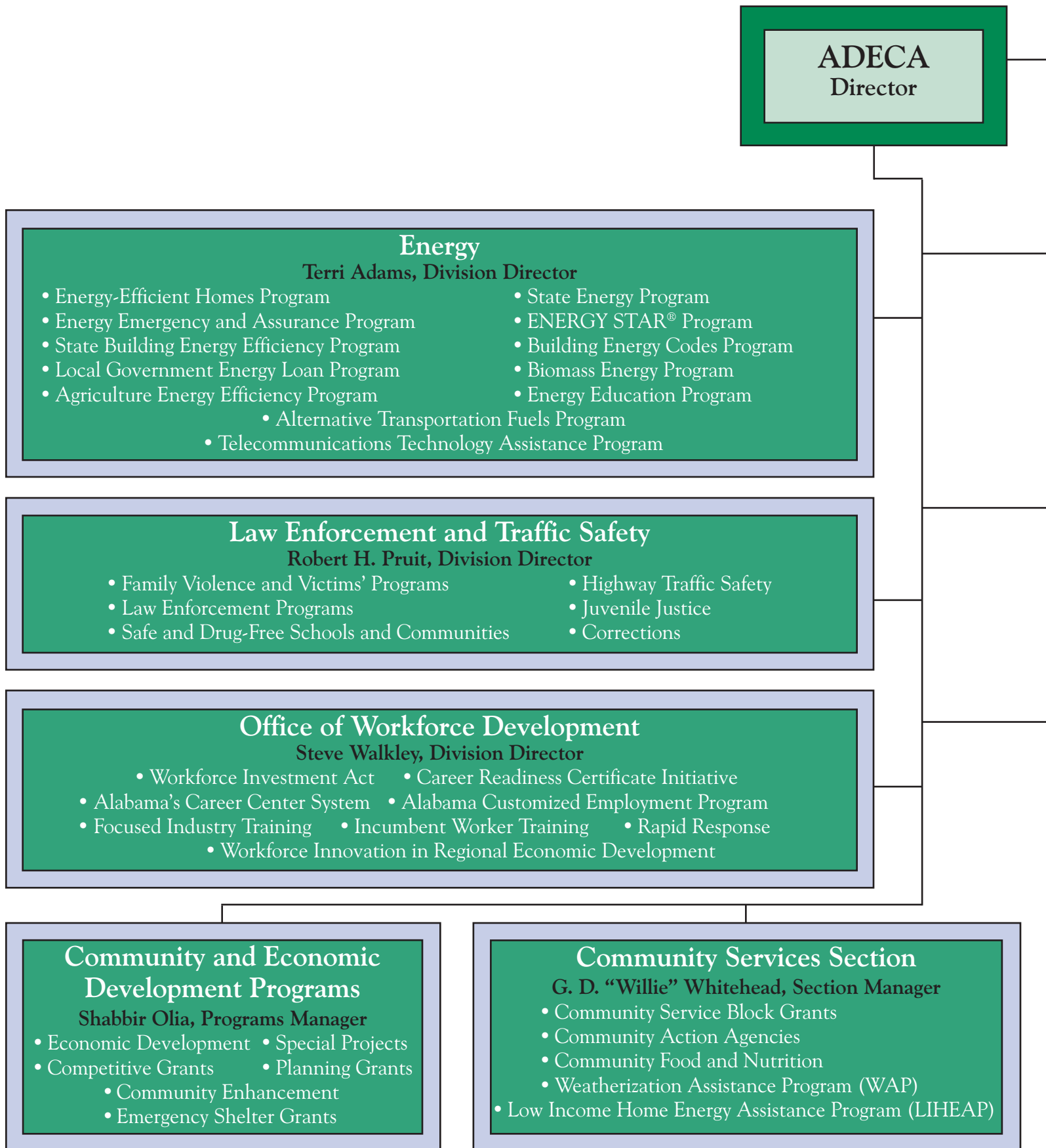
Our staff is working closely with Alabama communities and counties to lay the foundation for new or expanding industries that are so crucial to our state, especially in those areas hit hardest by the economic downturn. ADECA energy and weatherization programs are improving homes, schools and public buildings while creating new opportunities for contractors and construction workers eager to find employment.

Many cities and counties, faced with tight budgets and struggling to provide services for their residents, receive welcomed assistance from ADECA. Our programs help with infrastructure improvements, the purchase of law enforcement vehicles and equipment, energy conservation projects and many other measures to help stretch limited resources. ADECA's Surplus Property Division continues to serve as a low-cost alternative for local governments, schools and many non-profit organizations looking for essential equipment and supplies.

A significant factor in a community's ability to attract and maintain jobs is the quality of life. ADECA's recreational programs are helping towns and cities provide facilities that serve not only as a drawing card for new businesses, but also enhance community pride and offer important activities for families.

I consider myself fortunate not only to call myself an Alabamian, but also to be part of a team dedicated to providing the services and resources that build and improve our state in both good times and, more importantly, in challenging times.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doni M. Ingram".



Granting Entities

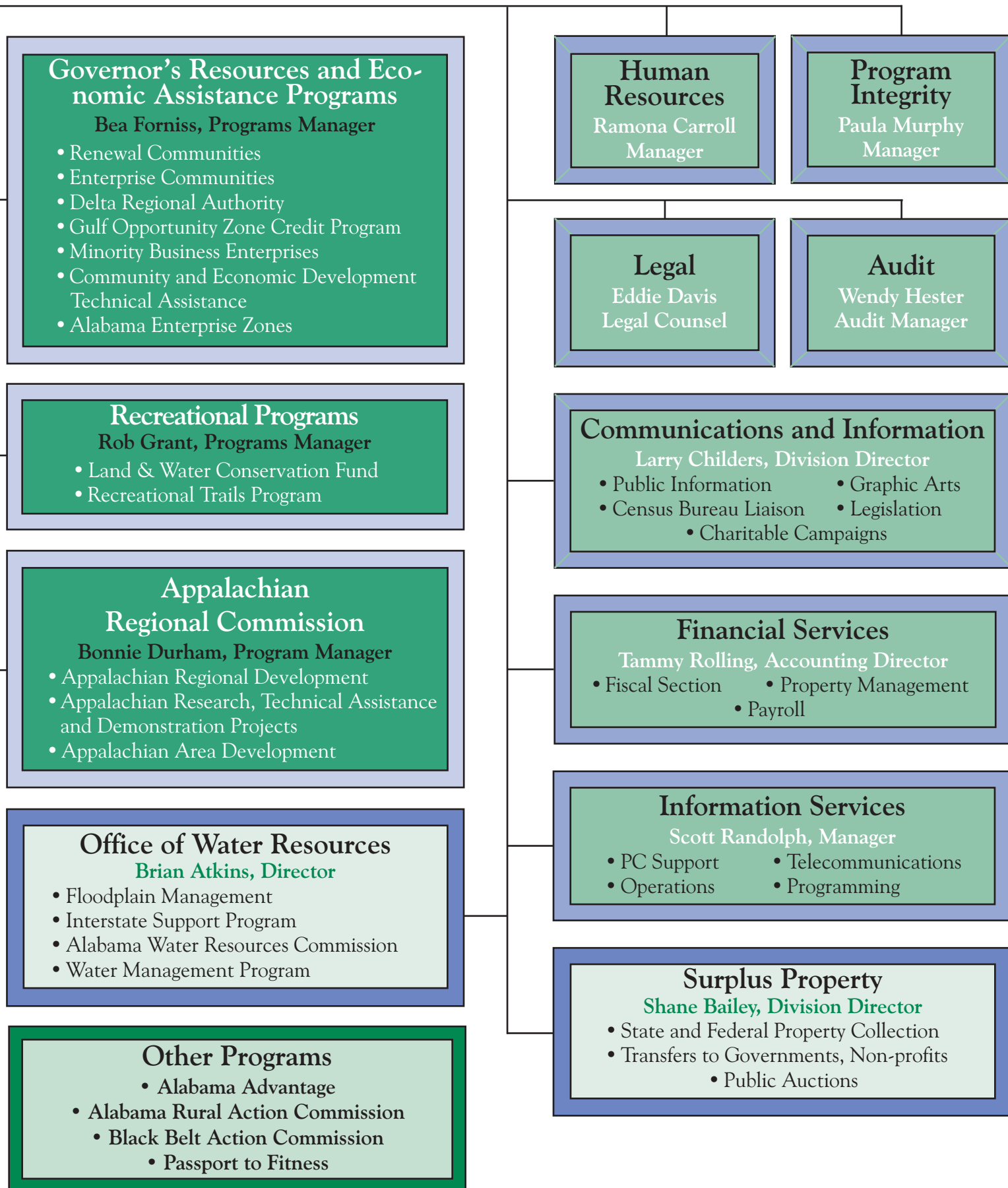


Support Entities



Other Entities

Organizational Chart as of September 30, 2009



Legislative Oversight Commission

The Legislative Oversight Commission was a part of the 1983 Act which created the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs—Act 83-194. The commission is composed of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance and Taxation, three members of the Senate appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House.

Senate



Chairperson
Ted Little



Bobby Denton



Phil Poole



Bobby Singleton



Roger Bedford

House



Alan Boothe



John Knight



Jack Page



Jack Williams



Tammy Irons

Community and Economic Development Programs

Mission

To distribute block grant funds through an effective and efficient means to promote the development of economically viable communities and a suitable living environment by creating sound and adequate public facilities, utilities, infrastructure, housing and job opportunities.

Programs Administered

- Economic Development Grants
- Competitive Grants
- Planning Grants
- Emergency Shelter Grants
- Community Enhancement Grants

CED Programs Aid Job Creations, Improve Communities

Although the recent economic downturn resulted in the closing of businesses and industries throughout the nation, the impact was especially severe for the town of Wadley. Meadowcraft Inc., one of the country's largest manufacturers of outdoor furniture, determined that it would be forced to shut its doors last year leaving hundreds without jobs.

"It was the largest private employer in our town and one of the biggest in Randolph County," Town Council Member Toni Gay recalled of the plant. "It affected not just our town, but a large area around us. Some of our stores closed. It just devastated us."

It is easy to understand why the loss would be catastrophic for the community: Meadowcraft employed nearly 600 people or just 50 people less than the town's total population.



Community Development Block Grants help provide infrastructure needed to attract or expand industry in Alabama and provide new jobs.

An \$850,000 Community Development Block Grant awarded to Wadley helped to persuade another firm, Southern Sales & Marketing Group, to purchase and reopen the plant. The grant, issued through ADECA's Community and Economic Development Programs, enabled the town to improve its sewer system to accommodate waste from the plant.

A portion of the grant helped with upgrades to the town's water system which made it possible for Southern Sales to install a sprinkler system and obtain lower insurance rates on the plant.

"We were so appreciative of the grant," said Gay. "There was no way we could have made the improvements without it. We just didn't have the money."

Wadley may not be completely out of the economic woods, but at least one path forward has become visible. Southern has hired about 200 people with the hopes of adding up to 400 more employees in the next six years.

"We definitely feel like we are on the rebound," Gay said. "It's going to take a while to even get back to where we were, but there seems a lot more interest in our community. We've got so many assets and a lot of possibilities here."

CDBG funding has helped the efforts of other Alabama communities to encourage business location or expansion to create jobs.

A \$1.04 million economic development grant to the city of Troy enabled CGI Technologies and Solutions move into a former plant that had been refurbished to meet CGI needs. CGI, which provides

software development, consulting and training, plans to eventually employ 300 people.

On a smaller scale, a \$200,000 grant aided the expansion of a Union Springs company that created 20 new jobs in the Black Belt region of the state. The grant to the Bullock County Commission resulted in the expansion of a county-owned building and facilitated the expansion of Gulf States International. Gulf States, which moved to Union Springs from Hattiesburg, Miss. in 1998, produces cleaning products.

Another ADECA program provided encouragement and assistance to Alabamians who were without places to live. More than \$1.5 million in Emergency Shelter Grants were issued through CED to regional non-profits for local distribution. An additional \$13.3 million in federal economic stimulus money was received by the state for emergency shelter and CED is in the process of awarding that funding.

The program finds housing for homeless persons and provides temporary assistance to individuals and families on the verge of being homeless, so they can remain in their homes or locate suitable dwellings.

Organizations receiving Emergency Shelter Grants must match the award dollar for dollar with local contributions. The matching funds can come from other grants, contributions or in the form of in-kind funding including services, equipment or donated buildings.

Even in good economic times some Alabama residents do without basic public services that most people take for granted. Community Development Block Grants aid Alabama cities and counties in funding projects critical to the health and well-being of their residents, but beyond the economic means of local governments.

In Bibb County, resident Ferman Griffin and others in the Duff community could not “get a glass of water” at times because of low water pressure. The county looked to ADECA for assistance.

A \$400,000 CDBG award enabled the county to install adequate water lines and pumps to increase water pressure for 211 residents in the rural area. The project also involved installing fire hydrants to improve public safety and possibly reduce home insurance rates for residents.

In 2009, ADECA provided more than \$26 million in CDBG funding to cities and counties. In addition to funding infrastructure projects, CDBGs helped build community and senior centers, renovate parks, demolish dilapidated structures and develop growth plans for communities.



Community Development Block Grants are a lifeline to communities seeking utility and other improvements to better serve residents and encourage industry.

Community Services Programs

Mission

Serving the citizens of Alabama while reducing welfare dependency the primary goal is to help low-income citizens, through a variety of programs and community activities, to become gainfully employed and improve their quality of life.

Programs Administered

- Community Service Block Grants
- Community Food and Nutrition
- Community Action Agencies
- Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

With Economic Stimulus Boost, Alabama's Weatherization Program Helps Families Lower Energy Costs, Provides Work for Construction Industry

High home energy bills can break a family budget already stretched thin by a job loss or other difficult circumstance. During the past year, an ADECA program gave many low-income residents some relief from high utility bills by making their homes more energy efficient.

The Alabama Weatherization Program was awarded \$38.2 million in Weatherization funds in fiscal year 2009, including more than \$30 million that was made possible by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Weatherization work was performed on 985 houses.

Administering the program in Alabama is the job of ADECA's Community Services section which was formed by the department in 2009 to bring together the programs that assist low-income Alabamians through community action agencies throughout the state.

Weatherization funds are awarded to community action and other sponsoring agencies. These agencies administer the program at the local level and receive applications from individuals. Priority is given to the elderly, those with disabilities and low-income residents with small children. Houses that qualify for weatherization assistance are tested to determine which improvements will be most cost-effective in saving homeowners on utility bills. Typical improvements include adding extra insulation in the attic, walls and floor, sealing leaks in ductwork, performing repairs and tune-ups to heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems and replacing incandescent lights with more energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs.

Weatherization coordinator Bill Anderson of the Community Action Agency of Talladega, Randolph, Calhoun and Cleburne Counties reports that the boost in stimulus funding is not only benefitting struggling residents, but also construction contractors performing the work.

"It's at least 10 times our normal funding," Anderson said. "Now we can spend more per household and can really help our clients address home energy needs."

Many Alabama contractors, struggling to find work due to the slump in home construction, are being employed on weatherization projects. Because of the special techniques required to weatherize existing, and often older structures, even experienced contractors must undergo training to perform energy-related projects and learn the rules and requirement of the Weatherization Program.

"We are doing our best to follow the spirit of the stimulus package which is to assist those in need and to employ people," Anderson said. "We are up from two contractors to 14 and adding one more each month."

Anderson estimates that his agency will weatherize 396 homes in his area with the boosted funding. With more than half of Alabama's \$71.8 million federal stimulus allocation yet to be allocated, the weatherization program will benefit thousands more in the coming year.

ADECA's Community Services Section also administers the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, and Community Service Block Grants. LIHEAP helps thousands of eligible low-income, elderly and disabled residents pay utility bills.

The Community Service Block Grant program provides funding to help low-income individuals and families achieve self-sufficiency.

Office of Workforce Development

Mission

To provide a market-driven system that delivers services to employers, employees and jobseekers using an innovative and comprehensive approach, which will provide employers with a prepared workforce to enhance the state's economic development and quality of life.

Programs Administered

- Workforce Investment Act
- Focused Industry Training
- Alabama's Career Center System
- Rapid Response
- Alabama Customized Employment Program
- Incumbent Worker Training
- Career Readiness Certificate Initiative
- Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development

Summer Youth Employment Program is a Win-Win

Thousands of Alabama teens and young adults, looking to gain some work experience and a paycheck during their summer vacation, found both thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Administered by ADECA's Office of Workforce Development, the Summer Youth Employment Program put 3,752 young residents to work with government, community and non-profit organizations at a time when many agencies needed extra help because of tight budgets.

At 1,132 sites across the state, young Alabamians, ages 14-24, gained experience in a wide



Justin Wright helps construct a Habitat house in south Alabama.

range of job classifications including administrative, clerical, computer technology, geographical information systems, public works, janitorial, landscaping and forestry.

"It was a win-win for our organization," Corinne Reese, executive director of the Shoals Family Success Center, told the *Florence Times-Daily*.

The center, which provides services that help families and individuals to become self sufficient, employed two students during the summer.

Reese said the students helped with mailings, fundraising, cleaning, a variety of office activities and other duties. In the non-profit sector, "you could always use an extra pair of hands," Reese said.

According to Mobile Works, a local partnership of business, education, labor and community leaders involved in workforce development, the 200 Mobile-area participants in the summer program received more than a paycheck. Work site coordinators for the program also served as mentors for the youth and provided them with opportunities to develop leadership skills.

Wise guidance and counseling for youth is something that ADECA's Workforce Development Division supports throughout the year. Working with the Mentor Alabama program, WDD helps affiliated organizations across the state recruit and screen mentors by paying the cost of criminal background checks.

Training Grants Help Alabama Companies Remain Competitive

Adequate training is the key to a skilled workforce, and a skilled workforce is key to international competitiveness.

Increasingly, Alabama-based companies must compete in a global market. For many years, training grants administered by ADECA have helped our businesses prepare and strengthen their workforce.

Given the economic slowdown that has gripped the nation, ADECA's assistance has become more important than ever.

Through WDD's Incumbent Worker Training Program, Alabama businesses can receive grants to help with the cost of specialized training for employees. Training is provided to streamline work, reduce waste, enhance safety, improve time management, eliminate unnecessary expenses and help workers develop a variety of valuable skills.

With grant assistance, Talladega-based International Enterprises Inc. was able to hire specialists to



Brittany Jordan assists in the finishing touches of a house built by the Habitat for Humanity program.

teach their staff some high tech skills that enabled them to compete more effectively for U.S. government contracts. The company repairs electronic devices for use in military aircraft and for other military-related applications.

Employees who undergo such training not only help their company, they also enhance their ability to qualify for pay raises and promotions.

Mark Webber, director of human resources for the company, said the successful training program meant that "International Enterprises was able to maintain our current workforce and has a good possibility of adding some additional positions for 2010."

Premier Professional Systems Inc. in Huntsville also benefitted from training assistance. The company develops and upgrades software for the U.S. Army and provides instruction on how to use and optimize the software. The company also performs maintenance, repairs, modifications and upgrades to combat equipment.

Company President Jannifer Henderson said the worker training program was beneficial to employees, the company and clients. "This program is a valuable resource, especially to small businesses that may otherwise not be able to provide these training opportunities for their employees," she said.

Training that improves workplace safety is important not only for the health of employees, but also for productivity. Shutting down operations when an employee is injured, or when mistakes cause a machine to malfunction, is costly. Employees who are around large, continuously-running equipment, machine lubricants, cleaning solvents and other manufacturing-related items need to understand the hazards and know how to react quickly and properly when something goes wrong.

A grant to Sunshine Mills in Red Bay, a manufacturer and international distributor of pet foods, enabled the company to send employees to receive specialized safety training designed to lower accident rates and increase productivity. Janeice Gover, a human resources manager with the company, said that learning "proper equipment use" was "very helpful to our employees."

ADECA's Workforce Development Division also offers an On the Job Training Program that helps individuals learn job skills and provides substantial savings to Alabama businesses. Grants can reimburse a company up to 50 percent of an employee's wages for up to 26 weeks, depending on the training needs.

A popular Southern ice cream maker, Blue Bell Creameries, recently took advantage of the OJT program. Administrative manager Mindy Grier said the program has benefits that go beyond providing labor for the company and allowing students to gain work experience.

"By utilizing OJT funds, Blue Bell Creameries has had more freedom in bringing in new hires," Grier said. "The OJT program allows us the certainty that new employees have ample time to train for their new positions in a food manufacturing environment without the stress of rushing the training time."

In addition to Incumbent Worker Training and On the Job Training programs, ADECA's Workforce Development Division also supports the Governor's Office of Workforce Development and the state's Rapid Response Team by administering grant funds, tracking how the funds are spent and providing other services. All of these programs work together to enhance the lives of Alabama workers by helping them develop the skills required to attract and maintain quality jobs.

Office of Water Resources

Mission

To plan, coordinate, develop and manage Alabama's ground and surface water resources in a manner that is in the best interest of the state by recommending policies and legislation, conducting technical studies, implementing programs and projects and actively representing Alabama's intra- and interstate water resource interests.

Programs Administered

- Floodplain Management Program
- Interstate Support Program
- Water Management Program

Office of Water Resources, Alabama Score Victory in 19-year Water Dispute

Arguably, water is Alabama's most precious natural resource. ADECA's Office of Water Resources manages the planning, conservation and coordination of Alabama's surface and ground water resources. The central challenge for the office is to ensure that the state maintains a plentiful water supply for current and future residents, businesses and industries.

One way that OWR is rising to the challenge is by supporting Alabama's position in a long-standing dispute with Georgia and the U.S. government over water withdrawals from Lake Lanier, a Georgia lake managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. To make sure Alabama continued getting a fair share of water, a lawsuit was filed in 1990 challenging the Corps' decision to withdraw water to supply the Atlanta metropolitan area. Alabama contended that Lake Lanier was built for flood control, hydropower generation and navigation support and that the Corps of Engineers needed Congressional approval to use the lake for water supply.

Alabama won a major victory in the 19-year legal battle in July 2009 when a federal court ruled that the current level of water withdrawal from Lake Lanier for Atlanta is illegal under federal law.



Gov. Bob Riley meets with Gov. Charlie Crist of Florida and Gov. Sonny Perdue of Georgia to discuss an amicable solution to the water problems affecting all three states.

OWR staff provided essential support to the litigation process through technical analysis of the water allocation issues.

"This analysis is critical to reaching a fair and equitable distribution of water produced by the river system that flows into Alabama from Lake Lanier," OWR Director Brian Atkins said.

The ruling supported Alabama's position that only Congress could approve such a massive use of water by the Atlanta area. The court ordered all water withdrawals from the lake to be frozen at current levels for three years. If Congress does not approve a reallocation within that period, water withdrawals will revert to the much lower levels of the 1970s. Georgia is appealing the ruling.

Meanwhile Alabama, Georgia and Florida (which is also a party to the litigation) are meeting to try to work out a solution that will benefit each of the three states.

Digital Mapping Project to Give First Complete Picture of State's Water Systems

When Alabamians turn on their faucets, they expect clean, fresh water to come out. But during a hurricane, drought or other emergency situation, water lines may be damaged or the water supply may be limited. Out-of-date maps are an obstacle to water system managers who need to determine the connection routes for sharing water during such emergencies.

ADECA is addressing that challenge by working with regional planning commissions and rural and

municipal water systems to create a comprehensive digital map of all water lines in the state using data from Global Positioning System satellites. The digital map will be the first complete, grid-like view of all water lines in the state. The map will help water managers determine the best connection routes for sharing water among systems during times of crisis. The data can be used to make key decisions to protect and restore water supplies threatened by natural disasters.

“This project will help the state to provide statewide planning for our water-system resources,” said ADECA’s Phillip Henderson, coordinator of the project. “In a drought or other natural disaster, the map will provide the necessary information for strategic planning and assist with emergency relief on a statewide level.”

The maps will enable water systems to plan development and better serve customers by being able to locate water lines and other features quickly. The maps will also support industrial recruitment by showing potential companies the existing water-system features at a potential site.

Digital mapping of water lines in Bibb, Hale and Pickens counties is complete. Mapping of Cherokee, Cullman, DeKalb, Elmore, Fayette, Franklin, Henry, Jackson, Lamar, Macon, Randolph and Russell counties is underway with other counties to follow.

The project is funded by a combination of state, local and federal resources, including assistance from the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Delta Regional Authority. The project is expected to be completed in three to four years.

The map will be maintained by OWR with water systems providing yearly updates to ensure data remains current.

Alabama Water Use Report Helps Water System Managers Address Growing Demand

As the state’s population grows, so does the water demand for residential, agricultural and industrial use, and for power generation. To help local water system managers make sound decisions in the face of growing demand and to provide a comprehensive understanding of water use and water availability, OWR issued a report in September 2009 detailing water use statewide and county by county.

“The Office of Water Resources works with the U.S. Geological Survey to complete this study every five years to give a complete picture of how the state uses its water,” said Tom Littlepage, chief of OWR’s Water Management branch.

The report found that power generation accounted for 87 percent of total surface water withdrawals in 2005. The largest total water withdrawals occurred in Limestone, Jackson, Colbert and Mobile counties to meet the cooling needs at thermoelectric power plants. Water withdrawals for public supply were 802 million gallons per day in 2005, with Mobile, Jefferson, Montgomery, Madison and Walker counties withdrawing the most.

Maps Help Residents, Businesses Reduce Flood Damage

Water possesses a power that must be respected. Heavy rains can turn a peaceful river into a raging flood and a hurricane can turn calm seas into a powerful surge damaging and destroying homes and businesses. As state manager of the National Flood Insurance Program, OWR is helping safeguard residents from the economic devastation caused by flood damage.

As part of the program, OWR is digitally mapping floodplain areas in Alabama’s 67 counties. The maps play a big role in the Flood Insurance Program by pinpointing areas most likely to flood during storms. At the end of fiscal year 2009, mapping for 32 counties had been completed with 26 more scheduled for completion in 2010. OWR also will update the floodplain areas of nine counties whose digital maps were completed when the project started in 2003.

In 2009, OWR began a coastal floodplain mapping project of Baldwin and Mobile counties, areas of the state that are vulnerable to coastal storm surges caused by hurricanes and tropical storms. The project will analyze data to determine the areas most prone to surge damage.

“Coastal floodplain mapping is needed because storm-surge analyses have not been completed for Mobile and Baldwin Counties since 1983,” said Leslie Durham, chief of OWR’s Floodplain Management branch, which is overseeing the mapping effort. “The new studies and maps will address the impact of flooding along Alabama’s 295 miles of coastline.”

The project, funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is expected to be completed in 2012.

Energy Division

MISSION

To increase energy efficiency, reduce energy consumption, and promote market acceptance and deployment of energy-efficiency and renewable-energy technologies.

Programs Administered

- State Energy Program (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act)
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program
- Energy Emergency and Assurance Program
- Industrial Energy Efficiency Program
- Local Government Energy Loan Program
- Energy Efficiency in Rural Water Systems
- Building Energy Codes Program
- Biomass Energy Program
- Agriculture Energy Efficiency Program
- Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program
- State Buildings Energy Efficiency Program
- Alternative Transportation Fuels Program
- Energy Efficient Homes Program
- Energy Education Program
- ENERGY STAR* Program
- School Retrofit Program
- Renewable Energy Program

Lee County Turns to Sunlight to Reduce Energy Costs at Justice Center

The nation's economic slump is forcing many city and county governments to find new methods of saving money to ensure that vital services remain available for their residents. With the help of a \$200,000 grant from ADECA's Energy Division, Lee County turned to energy conservation and alternative energy as a way to stretch the budget.



Students from Auburn University's Space Research Institute helped install solar panels at Lee County's Justice Center Complex to save on heating and cooling.

When the county expanded the T. K. Davis Justice Center Complex, the design incorporated energy-efficient materials and systems to hold down utility bills. To reduce operation costs even further, county officials looked toward one of the cleanest renewable energy sources abundantly available in Alabama: the sun.

The county partnered with Auburn University's Space Research Institute to install a photovoltaic solar panel system that generates electricity to help power the building's heating and cooling system.

During the first six months of operation, the solar panels have generated more than 11,000 kilowatts of power, saving about \$2,000 in energy costs with zero greenhouse gas emissions. Officials are working to expand the system. A fully expanded system could reduce energy consumption by as much as 25 percent, saving thousands on the complex's power bill.

"The renewable energy generated by the facility is reducing the amount of carbon dioxide emissions released thereby helping the environment. Also, monies saved from the system will go to fund other county programs and renewable energy projects," said Wendy Swann, Lee County's governmental relations coordinator.

The system has generated interest from state and local government officials, the news media and others with an interest in using solar power.

"This installation is the first of its kind at a government facility and is a first for the state of Alabama," said Steve Best of Auburn's Space Research Institute. "It is clear from the public reaction, support and inquiries that this project struck a chord of interest from the citizens of Alabama."



Solar panels help power the justice center.

Swann said the project is just the county's first step in using solar energy to offset energy costs.

"We are looking for additional funds to expand the current system at the Justice Center as well as placing solar panels on two additional county buildings," she said.

Energy Division Helps Alabama Schools Become Energy Efficient

In fiscal year 2009, ADECA's Energy Division also helped school systems across Alabama save money on utility bills. ADECA awarded grants totaling \$140,000 through the School Retrofit Program to help eight public school systems replace outdated equipment with more energy-efficient measures. The division's Local Government Energy Loan Program helped an additional two school systems by providing zero-interest loans to pay the upfront costs of energy upgrades. Loan recipients will repay the funds in periodic installments within 10 years using money saved on utility bills.

The Opp City School System was among those receiving grant assistance under the School Retrofit Program. The funds were used to replace 25-year-old heating and air conditioning units at Opp High School. New, high-efficiency heat pumps will save the school more than \$1,000 per year in electricity costs.

"The building is utilized daily and the inefficiency of the old system is very costly to the Opp City School System," Opp Superintendent Michael Smithart said in the system's grant application. "...The new units will greatly enhance comfort and increase energy efficiency and savings."

In the coming year, the Energy Division anticipates using almost \$26 million made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to upgrade the energy efficiency of public school buildings and state correctional facilities.

Alternative Energy Helps Habitat Homeowner Save Money

The benefits of incorporating solar energy and other energy-saving features into a building's design are not limited just to governments. Homeowners can use similar measures to reduce their power bills.

Each year ADECA's Energy Division strives to support projects that demonstrate how homeowners and homebuilders can earn long-term savings on utility bills by investing in energy-saving features. One such project was a home in Tuscumbia built by the University of North Alabama's chapter of Habitat for Humanity. With help from a \$26,342 grant from ADECA's Energy Division, this solar power project generated so much electricity that the power company actually owed the homeowner money for the first billing period in October 2008. The three-bedroom house, completed by student volunteers, includes solar panels and many other features that increase energy efficiency.

In its first 45 days of occupancy, the home generated 250 kilowatts of solar power. Through Sheffield Utilities, the house is connected to the Tennessee Valley Authority power grid which enables the homeowner to sell the solar power to TVA through its Generation Partners program.

Although she knew that her house had many energy-saving features, homeowner Diane Higley did not know how efficient it could be until she opened the first power bill. Instead of a bill, she discovered that she had earned a \$6.30 credit from Sheffield Utilities.

"I was just amazed," Higley said. "In my old house, I paid about \$136 a month for power plus about \$500 during the winter for propane to heat the home."



The use of solar power and other energy saving measures in a Habitat for Humanity home has meant dramatic energy savings for Diane Higley and her family.

In addition to the solar panels, the ADECA grant enabled Habitat to purchase and install structurally insulated wall panels, ENERGY STAR appliances, double-pane/low-emissive windows and special light fixtures to further increase the home's energy efficiency.

Higley has continued to receive low utility bills, meaning more money each month to spend on necessities for three young grandchildren who live with her. She also is using the savings to pay extra on her mortgage each month.

"Having a little extra money each month means a lot," Higley said.

Surplus Property

Mission

To acquire property declared surplus by state agencies and the United States government and redistribute it fairly and equitably for use by local governments and eligible Alabama organizations.

Programs Administered

- State and Federal Property Collection
- Public Auctions
- Transfers to Governments, Non-profits

Surplus Property Saves Money in a Difficult Economy

Our nation's economic difficulties have caused many Alabamians to look for ways to control spending and conserve finances. Alabama towns, cities, counties and other public entities also have been forced to cut spending while attempting to maintain services. In many instances, ADECA's Surplus Property Division has been able to assist.

The division provides equipment and other items to state and local governments and non-profit agencies at minimal cost. The impact of the savings can be monumental, particularly as governments and non-profits struggle with budget reductions.

The city of Prattville, for example, has been able to purchase utility trucks, cars and even a bulldozer for a fraction of the retail cost. The city previously purchased a crane from Surplus, and in the past year purchased a 10-ton military truck that was converted into a dump truck.

"We had to rent much of the equipment which was costing the city," said Napoleon Steele, Prattville's superintendent of vehicle maintenance. "Through Surplus we were able to find equipment, modify it to meet our needs and have it available on demand."

The recent purchases helped the city's wastewater department repair and maintain sewer lines; to combat erosion and potential sewer damage, the department used the equipment to haul and place large rocks in erosion-prone areas.

Shane Bailey, division director for Surplus, estimates that in the past year, Prattville acquired \$128,000 worth of property for a cost of about \$22,000.

To make such bargains possible, the division receives property no longer required by state and federal agencies. In addition, items confiscated at Alabama and Florida airports are obtained and sold by Surplus through an agreement with the federal Transportation Security Administration.

The division is a member of the National Association of State Agencies for Surplus Property, an organization which includes each U.S. state and territory. NASASP has an overseas program that brings reusable military surplus property back to the U.S. from many different areas of the world, including Korea, Japan, Italy, Spain and Germany. The state pays only transportation costs, but often equipment is purchased on site by buyers who take responsibility for transportation.

State and local government agencies are able to purchase items from Surplus throughout the year, but the division also sells items to the public at auctions held several times annually, and some items are sold via the Internet. Federal surplus items are auctioned on the General Services Administration's auction web site while some state surplus items are auctioned at www.Govdeals.com. The division has used eBay to auction items.

Revenue obtained from property sales is deposited in the state's General Fund.

Surplus: Bigger and Better

In late 2009, Surplus moved to a new location. The new 210,000-square-foot building in west Montgomery provides nearly double the space and will enable the division to acquire additional property and make a wider variety of surplus items available. The new location also is easier to access from major roads and interstates.

Like ADECA's other Surplus warehouse in Eva, the Montgomery facility will be owned by the state. The department saves about \$2,500 in rental costs per month by owning the Eva building, and purchase of the Montgomery building will create similar savings.

Passport to Fitness

Mission

To encourage a healthy Alabama and promote tourism.

Passport to Fitness Puts Alabamians on Road to Good Health

The Passport to Fitness program was conceived to encourage Alabamians to venture outdoors and walk their way to fitness. But this path to good intentions has become more of a superhighway. Numerous counties, cities and communities discovered that by listing their trails in a “passport” book, they also were promoting tourism and creating economic opportunities for their areas.

More than 50 Alabama cities, towns and communities, along with the state parks, are showcasing their historic sites, parks and natural features through the program.

The Passport program is designed after Europe’s popular *volksmarch* sport where participants are rewarded with a stamp or pin for each trail completed. The program, developed and managed by ADECA, was established at no cost to the state other than printing the trail guides. Trails were walked and mapped on a volunteer basis by employees from ADECA and other state agencies. The state departments of Conservation and Natural Resources, Tourism and Public Health and the University of Alabama at Birmingham provided support and assistance to the program.

In addition to trail routes, the passport guide books highlight special features and attractions along the trails. Each trail is graded on an ease-of-use scale.

Although it is a new program, additional cities and communities have asked to be included in future updated trail books.

Alabama Advantage

Mission

To promote Alabama communities and tout the advantages of living and working in Alabama.

Alabama Advantage Provides Beacon for Newcomers to Alabama

Alabama is not only a good place to visit, it is a great place to live and work. That is the message of the Alabama Advantage program.

Once aimed at drawing retirees to the state, the ADECA-sponsored program has cast a wider net with the intent of attracting people who want to relocate to the state for jobs or to start or move businesses.

Alabama Advantage works with communities around the state to help newcomers find the location that best meets their needs. Two annual events, the Lifestyles Exposition in Gulf Shores and the Living in Alabama Communities in Montgomery, helps pair potential newcomers with the community or region that best suits their requirements for a place to call home. Both events include exhibits from Alabama towns, communities and regions.

The program also publishes an annual magazine focusing on the state’s communities, attractions and businesses and touting the advantages of living in Alabama. The magazines are sent upon request to people interested in relocating to Alabama.

The program maintains a Web site, www.alabamaadvantage.org, which provides links to Alabama cities, counties and attractions.

Black Belt Action Commission

Mission

To measurably improve the quality of life in Alabama's Black Belt region by actively working with all citizens of Alabama and any other supportive parties.

Strides Made in Improving State's Black Belt Region

When America's economy took a downturn, it was familiar territory for many residents of Alabama's Black Belt region. The region's economy blazed that path decades ago.

For generations, prosperity has not been a word that could be applied to this stretch of land that cuts a swath across south Alabama from the Mississippi state line almost to Georgia.

However since its creation by Gov. Bob Riley in 2004, the Alabama Black Belt Action Commission has been striving to create positive change in a region that had been stagnated by limited jobs, high unemployment and school drop-out rates and insufficient medical facilities.

Saying that it was time to take action instead of just talking, Gov. Riley designed the mainly volunteer organization to aid the 12 counties that are considered the most economically depressed in the state: Bullock, Choctaw, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Pickens, Perry, Sumter and Wilcox. Many adjacent counties, not considered part of the Black Belt, also receive benefits from the organization as well.

Since the commission was formed, seven new businesses have opened in the region and 34 existing businesses have expanded, creating more than 2,500 jobs.

BBAC volunteers aren't stopping with that success.

In June, the commission along with corporate and governmental sponsors hosted a job fair in Selma to encourage entrepreneurial businesses in the Black Belt region. Those attending were linked to valuable resources necessary to start a business or improve an existing business.

Other Black Belt Action Commission committees are helping market the region as a tourist attraction based on the region's historical significance, unique cultural arts and architecture, and the splendid terrain, forests and waterways that make it a haven for sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts.

The commission has formed partnerships with private groups and government agencies to help students improve their health and enhance their ability to succeed in the classroom. Other programs



Cultural Arts are a major attraction for Alabama's Black Belt region.

offer students a chance to expand their learning through drama, poetry writing and photography. Distance learning also has become a reality in many schools. Using interactive technology, schools are able to offer students advanced courses not previously available in their school system.

Black Belt committees continue to explore other opportunities to improve the quality of life for residents in the region.

Program Integrity

Mission

To safeguard public funds administered by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs through technical assistance, on-site compliance reviews and project inspections to ensure that all intended services are delivered.

Unit Ensures Responsible Use of ADECA Funding

Charged with safeguarding public funds administered by the department, ADECA's Program Integrity Unit performs compliance reviews and project inspections to ensure that all necessary services are being provided and taxpayer money is being spent wisely.

The unit is also coordinating the extra reporting requirements created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for all stimulus funds flowing through ADECA and into the Alabama economy. Monthly and quarterly reports detailing fund distribution and job creation and retention are submitted to the Alabama Department of Finance and the federal Office of Management and Budget. Stimulus reports also are available to the public on the department's website. Accurate reporting ensures Alabama's accountability regarding its share of the stimulus package, which by mid-October 2009 had seen more than \$233 million awarded through ADECA.

During the past year, the Program Integrity Unit added an environmental engineer to the staff to review public works and infrastructure grant applications to ensure accurate cost estimates. The engineer also assists program participants with compliance training and monitoring to assure projects meet all specifications and funding is expended according to guidelines.

Audit

Mission

To provide financial monitoring through reviews or special audits of ADECA grant recipients, provide technical assistance and training to ADECA program managers and grantees and conduct internal reviews of operations, processes and systems to enhance efficiency and effectiveness and verify compliance.

Audit Section Provides Safeguard for ADECA Funding

In difficult economic times, every dollar counts. ADECA's Audit Section helps ensure that all funds that flow through the department are spent appropriately.

The section is responsible for financial monitoring of hundreds of grants awarded by ADECA each year. These grants are vital for many Alabama cities, counties and non-profit agencies to deliver services and improve the health, safety and welfare of residents. All grant applications submitted to ADECA must include details about how the applicant will use the money to benefit Alabamians. The Audit Section helps ensure that grant funding is spent in accordance with all requirements and to provide the services promised by the applicant.

Typically, an audit is performed by a certified public accountant hired by the grant recipient. To help accountants perform the audits properly, ADECA Audit staff participates in training sessions held each year. The Audit Section reviews audit reports and often conducts special audits to ensure funds are spent according to specifications and requirements.

Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety

MISSION

To increase safety and quality of life by encouraging professional planning and innovative programs for Alabama's criminal justice system, addressing traffic safety problems, assisting child and domestic abuse victims, supporting drug/violent crime prevention programs, juvenile crime prevention programs and drug task force operations.

Programs Administered

- Family Violence and Victims' Programs
- Corrections
- Highway Traffic Safety
- Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities
- Juvenile Justice
- Law Enforcement Programs

LETS Division Works to Make Alabama Communities Safer

ADECA's Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division works to reduce crime, save lives and protect the rights of victims. With additional funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, many programs supported by the division have been sustained and some have been able to increase services.

Programs Support Victims of Domestic Violence in Tough Economic Times

The Family Sunshine Center in Montgomery, which helps victims of domestic violence in seven south-central Alabama counties, is one of the organizations receiving support from ADECA. The Center has been able to retain its court advocacy program in part because of economic stimulus funding.

Jacqueline Fowler, the Center's court advocate, said the organization assists approximately 35 victims each month to prepare to go before municipal or district courts.

"I interview them before going in front of the judge," said Fowler. "No one is used to coming to court."

Fowler says the biggest fear many victims encounter in court is facing their abuser. Her job is to explain court procedures and what to expect during hearings and provide other support that will help victims navigate the legal process.

Fowler also helps victims develop a safety plan tailored to each individual's situation. It can include necessities like emergency shelter or even helping plan different routes to court, work or school to better ensure the victim's safety.

The Family Sunshine Center also offers a 24-hour helpline, counseling and support groups for victims.

ADECA funding for abuse shelters and related programs is supplied by two U.S. Department of Justice programs: the Victims of Crime Act and the Violence Against Women Act. Victim organizations like the Family Sunshine Center also depend on private donations.

Law Enforcement Partnerships Help Reduce Drug Crimes

Across Alabama, law enforcement agencies are teaming up to remove illegal drugs and drug dealers from the streets to make our communities safer.

Grants administered by ADECA's Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division, encourage law enforcement agencies to combine resources and equipment to form regional drug task forces. Throughout the state, these task forces are reducing the flow of illegal drugs and the violent crime that accompanies the drug trade. They often work with state and federal drug law enforcement agencies on major operations.

With the help of \$9.8 million in obligated economic stimulus funding supplied through ADECA, the task forces have been able to maintain or increase their enforcement efforts.

In Etowah County, undercover investigations conducted by the Drug Enforcement Unit have resulted in thousands of arrests, unit commander Rob Savage said in a *Gadsden Times* story. One of



Regional drug task forces have been able to detect illegal methamphetamine labs and arrest illegal drug manufacturers and sellers.

the unit's biggest accomplishments came in October 2008 with the disruption of the region's largest cocaine distribution ring and the arrest of its major leader.

Drug agents, working with the FBI's Safe Streets Task Force, confiscated cocaine, vehicles, weapons and cash during the bust. Estimated street value of the drugs was \$30,000 not counting what agents had seized during the investigation which lasted more than a year.

District Attorney Jimmie Harp told the *Gadsden Times*, "Historically speaking, this is the most significant narcotics case in the last 20 years."

New Programs and Partnerships Increase Safety

In January 2009, Gov. Bob Riley announced that Alabama highway deaths for the previous year had fallen to the lowest level since 1985. The state recorded a 17 percent drop in highway fatalities, seven points lower than the national average.

Alabama law enforcement agencies are using fresh ideas, new programs and partnerships with neighboring states in an effort to continue the trend, because as Riley said, "When it comes to saving lives, Alabama is moving in the right direction."

In Etowah County, an innovative new program was implemented to help save lives. The "Yellow Dot" program, funded by ADECA's LETS Division and the Etowah County Sheriff's Office, helps motorists involved in a crash receive efficient and effective medical care.

When a participant signs up for the program, they receive a free packet that includes a folder, information sheet, and "Yellow Dot" decal. The decal is placed on the rear window of the vehicle, and the information sheet – with photo, emergency contacts and medical information – is placed inside the folder and kept in the glove compartment.

In the event of a crash, the window decal alerts first responders to check the glove compartment for vital medical information, helping ensure that the person's current prescriptions and conditions are considered when administering treatment for injuries.

Lora Weaver, program coordinator for the Northeast Alabama Traffic Safety Office which implemented "Yellow Dot," said it will save lives in a medical emergency by being "a voice for the participants who may be unable to speak for themselves."

Geared toward seniors, the program is open to any resident, and some younger Alabamians with pre-existing health conditions have signed up for the program. Because of the success in Etowah County, officials are making plans to expand the program statewide.

Other traffic safety programs funded by ADECA each year help to increase law enforcement presence during peak travel times. ADECA works with Alabama's nine highway safety offices to coordinate regional enforcement efforts as well as two well-known national campaigns – "Click it or Ticket," which occurs around Memorial Day, and "Drunk Driving: Over the Limit, Under Arrest," around Labor Day.

During the 2009 "Over the Limit, Under Arrest" campaign, Alabama law enforcement agencies partnered with surrounding states for "Hands Across the Border" events. Agencies on both sides of the state line conducted sobriety checkpoints and other enforcement efforts.



The Hands Across the Border Program unites Alabama law enforcement with those of surrounding states.

Appalachian Regional Commission

Mission

To create opportunities for self-sustaining economic development and improved quality of life in Appalachia by increasing job opportunities and per capita income, strengthening the capacity of the people of Appalachia to compete in the global economy, improving Appalachia's infrastructure and building the Appalachian Development Highway System to reduce Appalachia's isolation.

Programs Administered

- Appalachian Regional Development
- Appalachian Area Development
- Appalachian Research, Technical Assistance and Demonstration Projects

ARC Exports Alabama to Create Job Opportunities

Creating jobs has always been a focus of the Appalachian Regional Commission, but that mission takes on an even more important role during hard economic times.

That's why the Export Alabama Initiative, launched in 2004 by Gov. Bob Riley and funded in part from a \$65,800 ARC grant, has become an important tool in providing overseas markets for goods produced by businesses located in the 37 counties that are part of Alabama's ARC region.

The program has created 80 new jobs in addition to preserving many that might have been eliminated without an increased export market. The project has resulted in an estimated \$4.6 million in sales from Alabama Appalachian businesses and the number is expected to climb to \$26.7 million in the next few years, according to the Alabama Development Office, a partner in the program.



Gov. Riley addresses a group while on a trade mission to Australia.

In addition to ADO, the initiative combines the expertise and resources of the Export Alabama Alliance and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Together the groups have conducted workshops, seminars and conferences with small and medium-sized businesses to prepare them to successfully market their products to overseas buyers. Markets targeted include South Africa, Chile, Argentina, Turkey, Thailand, Panama and Australia.

Many participating business and agency representatives have accompanied Gov. Riley on overseas trade missions.

ADECA, which coordinates the ARC program in Alabama, reviews all grant applications and submits them to the governor and subsequently to ARC in Washington for approval.

"The ARC grant has afforded successful opportunities for Alabama small and medium-sized companies to sell their products and services around the world," said Hilda Lockhart, ADO's international trade director. "Without this funding, exports from Alabama would not continue to grow. This program continues to help sustain export growth through the contacts we have been able to make in new and expanding markets."

ARC was created by Congress in 1965 to improve living standards in the Appalachian Mountain areas. ARC's region covers all or part of 13 states in the eastern U.S. The 37 counties included in Alabama's portion of ARC extend from the Tennessee state line south to Macon County in central Alabama.



Gov. Riley talks with Australian Ambassador Denis Richardson.

Governor's Resources for Economic Assistance Programs

Mission

To enhance local economic and community development activities by promoting economic development incentives with an emphasis on small and minority-owned businesses and providing resources for effective planning and implementation.

Programs Administered

- Renewal Communities
- Alabama Enterprise Zones
- Gulf Opportunity Zone Credit Program
- Delta Regional Authority
- Enterprise Communities
- Community and Economic Development
- Minority Business Enterprises Technical Assistance

REAP/DRA Helps Alabamians Lead Healthy, Successful Lives

Since its inception in 2000, the mission of the Delta Regional Authority has been committed to improving life within its service area which encompasses 252 counties and parishes spanning eight states including Alabama.

Challenging economic times have made the assistance provided by DRA especially important over the past year.

To help address a lack of accessible health care, the Authority teamed up with the U.S. Department of Defense last year to provide medical services for residents of Hayneville, a Lowndes County community with an aging population and a high number of low-income families.



A DRA program helped provide medical and dental assistance to residents in Lowndes County.

A U.S. Army Reserve medical unit from Houston, Texas set up headquarters at Hayneville Town Hall for 18 days to help residents unable to afford a visit to the doctor.

Hayneville Mayor Helenor T. Bell said the town was prepared for 400 clients, but expected only about 200 people to take advantage of the medical evaluations. But by the time it was over, 850 patients including 90 children were seen for primary care issues and over 400 pharmacy prescriptions were provided.

"It was simply awesome," Bell said. "It meant that people in our town that didn't have medical insurance or couldn't afford prescription drugs could see a doctor and receive proper medication."

Bell credits the Army medical staff with much of

the success of the program.

"They went out and met the public and really got involved with the community," she said. "And of course, the community really got involved with them."

The Governor's Resources for Economic Assistance Programs at ADECA works with DRA and is also the home for several other programs aimed at helping Alabamians and Alabama-owned businesses succeed. One such program, the Alabama Enterprise Zone, offers state-level tax credits and exemptions for businesses that locate and hire workers within economically distressed areas. REAP also manages Alabama's Minority Business Enterprise Program which helps minority business owners set up businesses and market their goods. In addition, REAP is an active participant in the Governor Bob Riley's Black Belt Action Commission which was established to improve living conditions in a 12-county region that has long suffered from poverty, poor health care and high unemployment and dropout rates.

Recreational Programs

Mission

To generate outdoor recreation opportunities, to strengthen the health and vitality of Alabama's population, and foster sound planning and investment strategies to protect, expand and ensure the quality of outdoor recreation.

Programs Administered

- Land & Water Conservation Fund
- Recreational Trails Program

Recreational Programs Enhance Outdoor Activities in Alabama

A sagging economy does not reduce a family's need for recreation, but it can place a strain on already tight budgets.

Fortunately, two grant programs administered by ADECA have helped create numerous free and low-cost opportunities for Alabama families to spend quality time together.

Recreational Trails grants and the Land and Water Conservation Fund assist counties, cities and non-profit organizations to develop recreation sites and programs. These grants support small projects like building a simple oval walking path in a town park, and larger endeavors such as construction of a complex, wide-ranging trail for motorized or non-motorized vehicles.

"The projects we fund give residents, and our out-of state guests, better access to Alabama's abundant

natural resources and a wider range of activities that promote health and fitness," said Rob Grant, ADECA's Recreational Programs director.

The Hugh S. Branyon Backcountry Trail is just one of many success stories. The 7.5-mile asphalt and boardwalk trail winds through south Baldwin County and offers Gulf Coast visitors exercise, fresh air and splendid views of coastal forests and habitats.

The multi-use trail is a collaborative effort of the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, which manages state parks, and the city of Orange Beach. It is one of just 22 trails declared a National Recreation Trail in 2009 by the U.S. Department of the Interior. This official designation is a reflection of the trail's unique attributes and makes it part of a network of exemplary trails from across the nation.



Alabama's Recreational trails and parks help put Alabamians on the path to fitness and provides family entertainment at no or little charge

A \$40,000 grant is helping enhance the Alabama Scenic River Trail, a 631-mile waterway trail from the Georgia state line in northeast Alabama to Mobile Bay. The trail encompasses numerous rivers and streams. Travelers who embark on the route, either by paddle or motorized boat, can glimpse an Alabama that closely resembles what Native Americans and pioneers would have seen. The grant provides for several fueling stations along the Alabama River between Montgomery and Mobile making it possible for motorboats to navigate the entire length of the waterway without carrying a supply of fuel onboard.

Thousands of Alabamians are benefitting from a \$50,000 grant provided by ADECA to a Birmingham-based nonprofit group that organizes free or low-cost outdoor activities. Each year, Fresh Air Family conducts more than 200 fun and educational activities including hiking, camping and canoeing. Participants also take field trips to historic and ecological sites and state parks. During the 2008-2009 fiscal year, ADECA administered other grants to encourage youth and adult participation in outdoor activities and sports. Funds were used to build or renovate ball fields, construct playgrounds and improve parks throughout Alabama.



Legal Section

Mission

To provide advice, risk management, litigation and other legal services to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

Programs Administered

- Legal
- General Services

Legal Section Maintains ADECA Compliance with Law and Regulations

Ensuring that ADECA does everything “by the book” is the job of the department’s Legal Section.

Although it is one of the agency’s smaller offices, the Legal Section has a big role in nearly everything ADECA does from issuing grants to hiring employees. The section offers legal advice, risk assessment and management, litigation representation and other services that help the agency operate smoothly and properly.

Every division and section relies on the Legal Section to ensure their responsibilities are carried out in accordance with applicable laws, rules and agreements. The section reviews ADECA grants, contracts and other agreements and assists the Human Resources section and ADECA supervisors with personnel issues.

The Legal Section also supervises ADECA’s General Services office which is responsible for processing mail and parcels, delivering office-to-office correspondence and maintaining necessary supplies for the department.



Human Resources

Mission

To effectively administer ADECA’s personnel needs and use all available resources to provide current and potential employees with the highest quality of personnel-related services.

Human Resources Assures ADECA of Capable Work Force

In addition to its usual duty of assisting the department with hiring, transfers and promotions, ADECA’s Human Resources Section had some extra responsibilities in 2009 thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The section processed 50 new temporary employees as part of the Workforce Development Division’s Summer Youth Program. The program, made possible by stimulus funding, enabled students to gain paid work experience. The students were able to assist WDD meet the demand created by the increased number of people who lost their jobs through layoffs and business closings.

During the past year, Human Resources initiated a new intern program, working with colleges and universities to offer course credit to students in exchange for working at ADECA.

Human Resources also assisted with the state’s Worksite Wellness Program sponsored by the State Employees Insurance Board. State employees who avoid unhealthy lifestyles and undergo regular health-care screenings receive a discount on insurance premiums.

Other Human Resources duties involve notifying employees of job training opportunities, providing guidance on disciplinary issues and working with retired employees to ensure that they are aware of changes in benefits or programs which could help them make the most of their retirement funds.

Information Services

Mission

To provide information technology and telecommunications services and support to ADECA and its stakeholders.

Programs Administered

- PC Support
- Telecommunications
- Operations
- Programming

Information Services Provides Technology Support for ADECA

Rising to meet new challenges, ADECA employees must increasingly rely on information technology.

The Information Services staff provides technology guidance to the department and is responsible for the design and maintenance of ADECA's computer and telecommunications networks. The IS staff reviews equipment needs, installs computer software, handles technical issues that arise and ensures that ADECA employees have the necessary training to use the tools of technology.

When ADECA was called on to administer economic stimulus funding, IS provided vital assistance. The IS staff, in cooperation with the Communications and Information Division, developed a website detailing all stimulus funding to be received by ADECA. As stimulus funding is distributed, monthly reports are posted on the site for review by the public and the state Finance Department.

"We standardized a format and a template," said Scott Randolph, ADECA's IS manager, "and set aside server space for the computer files needed to make the reports."

Many of the program and financial reporting tools used by the department had to be modified to accommodate stimulus reporting requirements. The IS staff evaluated existing computer programs and, in some cases, developed additional software to meet the new responsibilities.

Because of the behind-the-scenes support provided by Information Services, ADECA employees are much better equipped to serve the residents of Alabama.

Alabama Rural Action Commission

Mission

To measurably improve the quality of life in rural Alabama by working with all Alabama citizens and any other supportive parties .

Rural Action Commission Brings Improvements to Alabama

Making a positive difference in Alabama's less populated and often poor regions is the focus of the Alabama Rural Action Commission.

Modeled after the success of Gov. Bob Riley's Black Belt Action Commission, the Rural Action Commission was formed by Riley in 2007 and organized into eight regions. Each region determines the most important issues facing its communities, and then seeks solutions. Health, education, and economic development are the most frequently addressed issues. (Continued on page 21)

Financial Services

Mission

To provide exceptional financial support and accountability to the department and Alabama citizens through accounting, budgeting, procurement, and property management.

Programs Administered

- Fiscal Section
- Payroll
- Property Management

Financial Services Oversees Expenditures at ADECA

The Financial Services staff never work alone; they are an essential partner in every ADECA program.

The division's primary duty is to oversee all financial aspects of ADECA. That includes maintaining and dispersing payroll, handling purchasing, maintaining the department's property records and issuing payment to grant recipients and vendors.

Financial Services accountants are assigned to work with specific ADECA divisions and programs. That specialization enables them to become keenly familiar with individual programs and grant processes and more effectively monitor budgets and public funding.

While the stimulus plan has meant dealing with additional funds, Financial Services Manager Tammy Rolling says the staff has been able handle the additional responsibility.

"The grants are like all the others we've ever had," Rolling said. "There've just been more of them."

Alabama Rural Action Commission (Continued from page 20)

KidCheck, a student health screening program, is one of the most successful ARAC initiatives. The program operates as a partnership between school systems and nursing programs at Alabama's two- and four-year colleges. This school year more than 30,000 students across the state will receive free health screenings, many of which are performed by student nurses. Children found to have serious health challenges are referred to medical specialists.



The KidCheck student health program is helping provide medical screenings for many children in Alabama.

ARAC also assisted the Mattie C. Stewart Foundation with efforts to encourage students who are likely dropout candidates to remain in school and graduate. The commission obtained a grant from the Alabama Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils to enable the Foundation's "Choice Bus" to visit schools in six Black Belt counties where there is a large dropout rate. The bus has exhibits demonstrating the likely consequences for school dropouts.

The "Toolbox for Successful Grants" workshop series was conducted by ARAC and ADECA to teach communities and non-profit organizations to develop plans, gain support and attain funding for community improvement projects.

The Alabama Rural Action Commission maintains a website, www.alabamaruralaction.com, and receives administrative support from ADECA.

Communications and Information

Mission

To foster ADECA's mission of Building Better Alabama Communities by informing and educating the public, providing support to all of ADECA's divisions and encouraging participation in community service projects.

Programs Administered

- Public Information
- Graphic Arts
- Census Bureau Liaison
- Legislation
- Charitable Campaigns

Communications Division Provides Link between ADECA and Public

Tasked with keeping the public informed about ADECA grants and programs, the Communications and Information Division has thousands of contacts with newspaper, television and radio reporters each year. Once every decade, however, the staff assumes another responsibility: CID helps to ensure that every Alabamian is counted in the decennial Census.

Working to Ensure a Complete Census

Since 1999, the CID Director has served as the Governor's Liaison to the U.S. Census Bureau. Census counts are used to determine Congressional representation, state legislative districts and for planning and economic development purposes. Funding for essential state and local government programs is also directly impacted by the population count.

Nearly every program administered by ADECA is allocated federal dollars based on Census data. Other vital services like Medicaid, education programs, highway planning and construction, housing, temporary aid for needy families, children's health insurance, the school lunch program and dozens more receive money based on a formula that uses Census data. Each person overlooked by the Census results in the loss of thousands of dollars over the following decade. Because a complete and accurate count is so important, CID is assisting the ADECA Director to inform state agencies, local government representatives and the public about the significance of the 2010 Census.

Throughout the decade, CID works with the Census Bureau to keep their address records updated and certifies changes to municipal boundaries. The division also assists ADECA staff, other state agencies and the public with Census data research and interpretation.

Being Accountable to the Public

The day-to-day role of CID is to inform the public about ADECA programs and announce grants awarded by the governor to local governments and non-profit organizations. CID also notifies state legislators when these grants are awarded, to keep them informed on funds that may affect their districts.

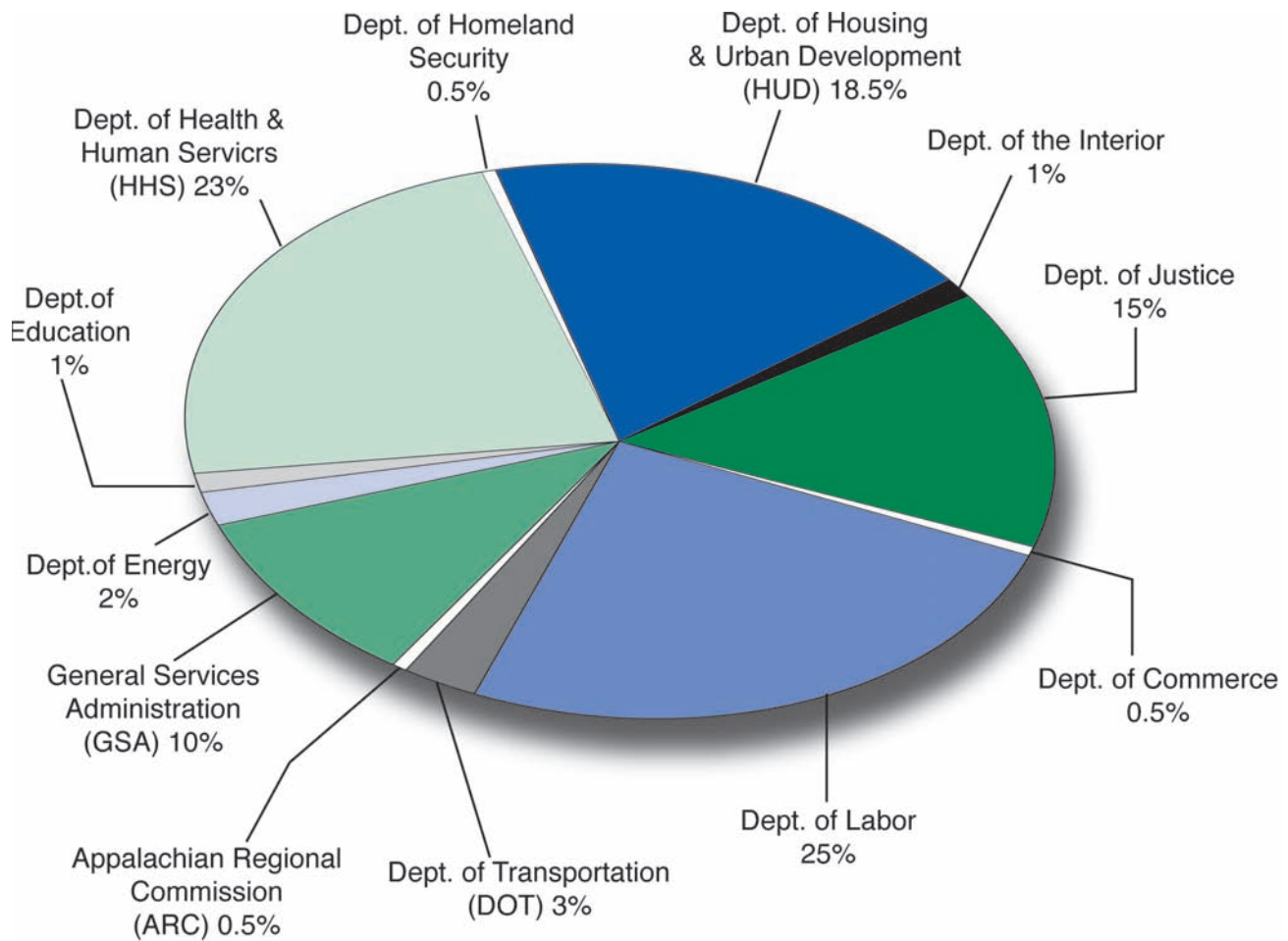
The additional funding made possible by the economic stimulus program has significantly boosted the number of grants to be announced. It also has meant increased public accountability through a website that CID developed along with ADECA's Information Services Section. Records are updated monthly with reports that detail how stimulus money is being spent. Stimulus funds also have increased the number of public inquiries received from Alabama residents.

CID monitors news reports related to ADECA programs and updates department employees through an electronic newsletter. Measures introduced in the Alabama Legislature that might impact the department are followed by CID and an up-to-date status report is included in the newsletter.

CID's graphic arts section supports every program administered by the department by designing and printing handbooks, manuals, brochures, pamphlets, posters and other materials for both internal and external use. The section also operates a high-volume printing and copying service for the department.

The CID staff coordinates annual charitable campaigns and blood drives throughout the year.

*Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
Federal Funding Sources
FY 2009*



Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs

2008-2009 Federal Receipts and Disbursements

Highlight indicates (ARRA) programs.

Federal Grantor/Program Title	Receipts	Expenditures
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE		
Environmental Sciences, Applications Data, and Education	35,881	35,881
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT		
Community Development Block Grants/State's Program	51,031,625	50,997,915
Emergency Shelter Grants Program	1,569,005	1,568,404
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS	1,251,496	1,251,496
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR		
U S Geological Survey_Research and Data Collection	3,156	269
Outdoor Recreation_Acquisition, Development and Planning	439,399	439,399
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE		
Prisoner Reentry Initiative Demonstration (Offender Reentry)		(55,212)
Juvenile Accountability Block Grants	668,657	640,191
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention_Allocation to States	817,771	817,691
Title V_Delinquency Prevention Program	63,600	63,600
Crime Victim Assistance	5,006,106	5,005,080
Violence Against Women Formula Grants	1,857,031	1,852,273
Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders	259,116	259,116
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners	172,213	172,275
Public Safety Partnership and Community Policing Grants	227,584	227,584
Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program	283,177	282,665
Protecting Inmates and Safeguarding Communities		
Discretionary Grant Program	242,188	242,188
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program	1,921,569	9,255,133
Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant Program	130,513	130,513
State Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program - ARRA	257,154	259,758
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program - ARRA	5,465,178	5,290,178
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR		
WIA Adult Program	8,921,913	8,763,715
WIA Adult Program - ARRA	1,275,075	1,243,859
WIA Youth Activities	10,371,928	10,697,641
WIA Youth Activities - ARRA	6,387,647	6,335,411
WIA Dislocated Workers	9,450,523	9,382,734
WIA Dislocated Workers - ARRA	736,707	730,135
WIA Pilots, Demonstrations, and Research Projects	7,345,125	7,366,265
Work Incentive Grants	571,663	574,262
Community Based Job Training Grants	184,258	184,861

Federal Grantor/Program Title	Receipts	Expenditures
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION		
Recreational Trails Program	1,017,561	995,204
State and Community Highway Safety	3,652,967	3,348,154
Alcohol Impaired Driving Countermeasures Incentive Grants	748,012	748,012
Occupant Protection Incentive Grants	940,754	901,693
Safety Belt Performance Grants	273,985	291,528
State Traffic Safety Information System Improvement Grants	650,463	668,619
APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION		
Appalachian Area Development	934,143	934,143
Appalachian Research, Technical Assistance, and Demonstration Projects	123,837	101,038
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION		
Donation of Federal Surplus Personal Property	35,778,943	23,881,079
	value of property-not cash received	
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY		
Petroleum Violation Escrow	147,454	783,145
State Energy Program	548,723	538,490
State Energy Program - ARRA	162,584	110,681
Weatherization Assistance for Low-Income Persons	3,160,327	3,168,581
Weatherization Assistance for Low-Income Persons - ARRA	1,496,470	1,476,020
State Energy Program Special Projects	20,153	20,153
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION		
State and Drug-Free Schools and Communities_State Grants	899,551	899,380
DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY		
Delta Area Economic Development	66,682	
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES		
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance	61,174,128	61,193,459
Community Services Block Grant	12,051,244	12,047,025
Empowerment Zones Program	197,038	197,038
Family Violence Prevention and Services/Grants for Battered Women's Shelters	1,421,239	1,420,818
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY		
Community Assistance Program State Support Services Element (CAP)	152,221	156,085
Cooperating Technical Partners	5,768,896	5,761,788
Map Modernization Management Support	144,448	151,555
TOTAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS	248,479,079	243,808,966

Get Connected to ADECA Services

ADECA	334-242-5100
Alabama Advantage	334-242-5469
Alabama Rural Action Commission (ARAC)	334-353-8286
Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)	256-845-3472
Audit	334-242-5470
Black Belt Action Commission	334-353-5682
Communications & Information Division (CID)	334-242-5525
Community and Economic Development Programs	334-242-0492
Community Services Section (CSS)	334-353-4023
Energy Division (ED)	334-242-5290
Financial Services (FS)	334-242-5729
Gov.'s Resources for Economic Assistance Programs (REAP) ...	334-242-5370
Human Resources	334-242-5251
Information Services (IS)	334-242-5529
Law Enforcement & Traffic Safety (LETS)	334-242-5897
Legal Services	334-242-5255
Office of Water Resources (OWR)	334-242-4991
Passport to Fitness	334-353-3719
Program Integrity	334-242-5470
Recreational Programs	334-242-5483
Surplus Property Division (SPD)	334-277-5866
Workforce Development Division (WDD)	334-242-5300

